



BOARD FORUM

Sharing perspectives in local,
state & national higher education



Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon is serving his second term as governor of Missouri. Gov. Nixon has made a strong public education system one of his chief priorities. He is committed to attracting the jobs of the future to Missouri, making health care more affordable and placing a college education within reach for middle-class students. He held two statewide summits on higher education to establish goals and set strategies to increase degree and certificate attainment, make institutions more efficient, improve completion, and reward institutions for performance. Gov. Nixon earned both his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Missouri-Columbia.



Dewayne Matthews has served in a variety of higher education leadership roles, including Senior Adviser to the President and Vice President of the Education Commission of the States (ECS), Director of Programs and Services for the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) and Executive Director of the New Mexico Commission on Higher Education. He has been a legislative staff member, faculty member and university trustee, and has worked with higher education institutions in Mexico, Canada, and Japan. Matthews earned a master's degree in bilingual education at New Mexico Highlands University and a doctorate in educational leadership and policy studies at Arizona State University.



Linda Luebbering has worked in budget-related positions for the State of Missouri for 20 years. From 2002 to 2004, she was the state budget director for Gov. Bob Holden. Prior to returning to Missouri as state budget director for Gov. Jay Nixon, Luebbering served as the fiscal management director for the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare. Luebbering received a bachelor's degree in economics and a master's degree in public administration from the University of Missouri-Columbia, graduating *summa cum laude* in 1990. In 2002, she was awarded the George A. Bell Service Award by the National Association of State Budget Officers for outstanding service in state budgeting.



Paul Wagner is the executive director of the Council on Public Higher Education. He was deputy director of the Missouri Department of Higher Education from 2007 – 12, and budget analyst for the Missouri Senate’s Appropriations Committee from 2001 – 07. In that role, he led the development of a new elementary and secondary foundation formula. Wagner, a Bright Flight Scholar, received his BS degree in political science from Truman State University. He received his MS degree in public policy and administration from Baylor University.



Zora Mulligan is the executive director of the Missouri Community College Association. A native of West Plains, a small town in southern Missouri, Mulligan attended Drury College (B.A. Political Science & Psychology '98) and the University of Kansas (M.Ed. '00, J.D. '03). She served as assistant attorney general for four years, during which time she litigated environmental and consumer protection cases on behalf of the State of Missouri and managed the consumer complaint unit. In 2007, she joined the Missouri Department of Higher Education, where she served as the agency’s general counsel and lobbyist.



Leroy Wade, interim deputy commissioner for the Missouri Department of Higher Education, has been a member of the department staff for more than 27 years. In his current position, Wade is liaison to the General Assembly on all matters relating to higher education. He also provides leadership for the development of a unified higher education budget request encompassing Missouri’s public colleges and universities, for the operation of 13 state-funded student financial assistance programs, for early awareness and outreach activities, and for the proprietary school certification program.